

the work go on much more rapidly, but it seemed almost labouring against time. The fire was curling and creeping closer and closer, and the children already felt its hot wind sweeping past them.

Providentially the men had begun removing the timbers at the point where they were supported by the end of Mark's barricade. Just when it seemed that the case was hopeless, they dragged away the woodwork which had covered the end; in a few minutes more the children were pulled out, alive, though all more or less injured. Tenderly and gently they carried them to the sleighs, and then started on their homeward road, a journey easier now since the wind was with them, not against them.

Mark was the most injured of the party. In trying to protect Annie from the falling roof—for they were scarcely under the barricade when it gave way—the corner of the frail barrier was dashed against him, and as he happened to be holding his arm out for the little girl's shelter, it was broken by the shock.

The barricade had been thrown forward by the